

1                                   **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.126**

2                                   (By Delegates Ashley and Boggs)

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7 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the  
8       need for criminal penalties for utilizing computers, mobile  
9       telephones and electronic devices to transmit obscene,  
10      anonymous, harassing, threatening, demeaning, degrading and  
11      self-esteem lowering communications.

12      WHEREAS, Technology has allowed a broad range of communication  
13 from mobile telephones, networking sites, internet message boards,  
14 web logs, to blogs; and

15      WHEREAS, The content and information shared on and from these  
16 devices are not always restricted or blocked which can cause these  
17 tools to be used to damage others through intentional actions by  
18 individuals wanting to cause harm or malice; and

19      WHEREAS, With the ability to communicate across a wide range  
20 of mediums, our laws need to be reviewed and, if necessary,  
21 changed, created and/or updated to protect the citizens of West  
22 Virginia from unwanted obscene, anonymous, harassing, threatening,  
23 demeaning, degrading or self-esteem lowering communications;  
24 therefore, be it

25      *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1        That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
2 requested to study the need for criminal penalties for utilizing  
3 computers, mobile telephones and electronic devices to transmit  
4 obscene, anonymous, harassing, threatening, demeaning, degrading  
5 and self-esteem lowering communications; and, be it

6        *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and  
7 Finance report to the Legislature, on the first day of the regular  
8 session, 2012 on its findings, conclusions and recommendations  
9 together with drafts of any legislation to effectuate its  
10 recommendations; and, be it

11        *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
12 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
13 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
14 Government and Finance.